

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: P. A. Billing-Medel, et al.

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Serial No.: (Not yet assigned)

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Mail Stop: Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Attorney Docket No.: 6193.US.C1

on November 21, 2003

Group Art Unit: (Not yet assigned)

Name of person signing
this certificate: Wanda E. Smith

Examiner: (Not yet assigned)

Signature: Wanda C. Smith

Date: November 11, 2003

Preliminary Amendment

Mail Stop: Patent Application
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examining the above-identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 with the following:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/193,538 filed November 17, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of 08/971,772 filed November 17, 1997, now abandoned, from which priority is claimed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §120 and which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.